



LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

Indiana State Department of Health

**ISDH Long Term Care
Newsletter Issue # 08-16
June 13, 2008**

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Disaster Assistance

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is aware of at least 22 health care facilities directly affected by flooding and/or storms in the past week. This includes hospitals, nursing homes, and group homes and includes total evacuations, relocations within a facility, boil water advisories, power outages, and gas leaks. Many other facilities have been secondarily affected by having to provide services for patients and residents displaced from other facilities.

If a health care facility needs immediate emergency assistance, the facility should contact their local emergency management agency.

Any health care facility experiencing disaster related issues is encouraged to contact and inform the ISDH. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the ISDH have been communicating closely to provide assistance to health care facilities and resolve problems. CMS and the ISDH are in communication with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), FEMA, and state emergency preparedness officials.

Please let the ISDH know how we can be of assistance. You are welcome to contact me (Terry Whitson, 317-233-7022, twhitson@isdh.in.gov), Sue Hornstein (Director of Long Term Care, 317-233-7289, shornste@isdh.in.gov), or Mary Azbill (Director of Acute Care, 317-233-1286, mazbill@isdh.in.gov). Sue will be out of the office the week of June 16. In her absence you may contact, Kim Rhoades (Long Term Care Survey Manager, 317-233-7497, krhoades@isdh.in.gov). After business hours you may contact the ISDH Duty Officer at 317-509-4336 if there is an immediate concern.

At the present time, there is one hospital, one nursing home, and seven group homes that have been totally evacuated and have not been able to reoccupy. One nursing home was totally evacuated but was able to move back in within a day. Two nursing homes have relocated residents within the facility because of damage to one part of the facility.

This is a good time to remind health care facilities about available resources. In October 2007, CMS issued a memo on [Public Health Emergency Frequently Asked Questions Web Sites](#). This memo provides links to the Survey and Certification Emergency Preparedness Website. That Website includes frequently asked questions, emergency preparedness tools, and preparedness initiative contact information.

The ISDH thanks those individuals and facilities who have assisted individuals and facilities affected by the flooding and storms. Our thoughts and best wishes are with facility employees, patients, and residents affected by the disaster.

Warning on Air Heater

NORTHBROOK, Ill., – June 6, 2008 - Underwriters Laboratories (UL) is notifying consumers and retailers that wall-mounted heaters manufactured by Econo-Heat may pose a risk of fire.

Name of Product: Model 0601

Units: Unknown quantity

Date of Manufacture: November 2005 to January 2006

Manufacturer: Econo-Heat, Cape Town, South Africa

Hazard: Electrical connections may not be properly secured, causing them to overheat and posing a risk of fire.

What You Should Do: UL recommends that users stop using the heaters and contact Econo-Heat for further instructions.

Consumer Contact: Contact Econo-Heat by email at contact@econo-heat.us. Contact by phone at 713-589-3275.

Identification: For complete identification information, see <http://www.ul.com/newsroom/newsrel/nr060608.html>

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Bed Hold Reimbursement

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a revised [Transmittal 1522](#) for the Medicare Claims Processing Manual. Skilled nursing facilities (SNF's), but not hospitals, may bill the beneficiary for holding a bed during a leave of absence.

FDA Heparin Recall Information

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has requested the state agencies to again spread the word regarding recalls of injectable heparin products and heparin flush solutions that may be contaminated with oversulfated chondroitin sulfate (OSCS). Affected heparin products have been found in medical care facilities in one state since the recall announcement. Although product recall instructions were widely distributed, they may not have been fully acted upon at all sites where heparin is used. There have been many reports of deaths associated with allergic or hypotensive symptoms after heparin administration (see FDA link at http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/heparin/adverse_events.htm).

CMS requests that health professionals and facilities review and examine all drug/device storage areas, including emergency kits, dialysis units and automated drug storage cabinets to ensure that all of the recalled heparin products have been removed and are no longer available for patient use. In addition, FDA would like to inform health professionals about other types of medical devices that contain, or are coated with, heparin. To read this update, and to learn how to report these problems to FDA, please go to: <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/heparin-healthcare-update.html>.

Please report to FDA adverse reactions associated with these devices, as well as any reactions associated with heparin or heparin flush solutions. If you have questions or would like more information about this request, please contact the Division of Drug Information at 301-796-3400.

Best wishes for the coming week.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health